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THE EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE • THE CANTON EAGLE • THE INKSTER LEDGER STAR • THE NORTHVILLE EAGLE
THE PLYMOUTH EAGLE • THE ROMULUS ROMAN • THE WAYNE EAGLE • THE WESTLAND EAGLE

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THE BELLEVILLE ENTERPRISE
Vol. 136, No. 01

Members of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees approved and revised employment positions and salaries during a recent Zoom meeting Dec. 15.

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State Rep. Jewell Jones (D-Inkster) joined with Silent Cry to host a demonstration at the Gus Harrison Correctional Facility in Adrian earlier this month.

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Northville Township police officials recently recognized police officers and civilian employees with the 2020 departmental awards including an Officer of the Year.

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Members of the Wayne Police Department expressed their gratitude recently for the new radios purchased with a grant from Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation.

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THE WESTLAND EAGLE
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Westland Mayor William R. Wild welcomed the donation of more than 100 turkeys from the American House which were distributed to Norwayne veterans and other residents.

See page 2.

Traffic troubles plague Wayne County Lightfest

> *One family was threatened by man brandishing a handgun while waiting in line Dec. 19.*

Area residents took a dim view of traffic problems at the Wayne County Lightfest in Hines Park this year. The 4.5 mile attraction, which featured more than 47 giant animated displays and more than one million lights, prompted an armed road rage confrontation along with multiple complaints about traffic back ups and road blockages.

Members of the Westland Police Department were dispateched to the entrance of the attraction on Merriman Road Dec. 13, to try to alleviate some of the traffic snarls between Ann Arbor Trail and Warren Avenue.

Tempers flared so badly during the traffic snarls at the event, that one family was threatened by man brandishing a handgun while waiting in line Dec. 19. Police are still seeking the passenger of a red Dodge Charger who threatened the family waiting in line at the intersection of Hines Drive and Outer Drive in Dearborn Heights. Witnesses said the driver of the car, a black woman in her mid-20s, shouted profanities at passengers in another vehicle. A Black man in the passenger seat of the Charger also shouted profanities at the other vehicle while pointing a black handgun at the occupants. Dearborn Heights Police are still seeking the pair.

Westland officers worked with the Wayne County Parks Division and Wayne County Sheriff deputies during some of the heaviest traffic last month to attempt to control the backup issues at the extremely popular 27-year-old exhibit. According to a prepared statement, those efforts "should result in significant improvements."

Residents, however, are not convinced.

Bridget Walker who lives on a street that she said is constantly blocked, called the situation "beyond ridiculous, especially this year. The fire station is constantly blocked as are the main intersections followed by residential streets," she posted on social media. She suggested moving the entrance to the attraction near Farmington and have the waiting line go down Hines and back up to Newburgh.

The Lightfest, which was open Wednesday through Sunday during the holiday season, was more popular than ever this year, officials

See **Lightfest,** page 6

3rd suspect charged in death of Van Buren woman

Four suspects have been arrested and three men charged in the 2017 death of Egypt Covington, 27, who was found bound with Christmas lights and slain in her home in Van Buren Township.

Following pressure from the victim's family who grew frustrated with the lack of progress by Van Buren Township police, Michigan State Police began an investigation in Covington's death. As a result of that investigation, Timothy Moore, 34, of Toledo Ohio, and Shane Evans 31, of Sumpter Township were arrested and arraigned in November and December. Moore is charged with first-degree murder, felony murder, first-degree home invasion, possessing a firearm as a felon and four counts of using a firearm in the commission of a felony. Evans is charged with felony murder and first-degree home invasion. A third person was also recently arrested but subsequently released. A third man, Shandon Groom, 28, of Toledo Ohio, was arraigned on charges Dec. 31 in 34th District Court in Romulus. Groom also faces charges of felony murder and first-degree home invasion.

State police officials refused to make any further comment regarding the investigation or any other suspects in the case. Prosecutors are expected to reveal what they believe was the motive of the defendants during court proceedings.

Covington was found shot and bound on June 23, 2017. Her family members eventually started a Facebook campaign "To Find Justice for Egypt" seeking tips and requesting an investigation into her death by state police.

Covington was a well-known figure in the community and performed as a part-time singer in various venues. She was employed full-time with Arbor Brewing Company in Ypsilanti as an account manager.

Egypt Covington

First-degree murder and felony murder are punishable by up to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Community college offering reduced spring tuition

> *We are here to help them find an opportunity that allows them to grow...*

Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) will reduce tuition by 50 percent across all academic and career programs for students who register before Jan. 19 for the spring semester. The tuition relief is a part of a give-back initiative called "New Day, New Way".

The tuition relief is now under way and will continue until Jan. 19. WCCCD students who registered for the spring 2021 semester prior to Jan.1, will receive 50-percent off tuition for either the summer or fall 2021 semester.

Interested individuals can visit the WCCCD website at wcccd.edu to explore programs, and to start the application and registration process.

"Our mission has always been to help people find pathways to better lives through higher education," said WCCCD Chancellor Dr. Curtis L. Ivery. "Tens of thousands of individuals across our region are leaving 2020 behind with a deep need and desire to turn towards something better.

"We are here to help them find an opportunity that allows them to grow, their families to grow, and their communities to thrive."

For more information about the "New Day, New Way" tuition relief initiative and the criteria to participate,call (313) 496-2600 or visit www.wcccd.edu.

Canton - Westland

Well hot dog...

Crave Hot Dogs and BBQ set to open Canton Township location this year

Those 'craving' a sausage treat will welcome New York vendor Crave Hot Dogs and BBQ, based in New York City, which is set to open a Canton Township location this spring. While no location for the new store has been revealed, company representatives have confirmed the plans for the Canton location.

Darrell Old and Brad Fuch will open the Canton location of the franchise famous for their all-beef hot dogs and wide array of toppings. The Crave menu also includes pulled chicken, pulled pork, and smoked brisket as well as hot dogs, which come with two toppings, as do the bratwurst and mild or hot sausage. The franchise has 22 locations open or planned to open by mid 2021 across the U.S. The stores also offer a wide array of side dishes including BBQ Tacos, Mac N' Brisket sandwiches, wings, and Loaded Tater Tots.

"We are excited to partner with Darrell and Brad," Crave said in a company statement. "They share the passion for Crave that we do and bring both business and food knowledge to the table. They are a perfect fit for the Crave family."

The franchise interiors are designed to be modern rustic and include a beer wall with 18-32 taps that can include local craft beer, wine, cider, and liquor, depending the location. The locations also offer corn hole and giant connect four games. Kids eat free on Wednesdays. Customers can order ahead, pick up curbside or have their food delivered. A loyalty program allows customers to earn points which can be redeemed for food.

The brand was founded in 2018 by husband-and-wife team Salvatore and Samantha Rincione. They plan to have more than 100 units open within the next three years and about 20 trucks on the road.

B.L.O.C.K. offers teen programs for Canton youth

Online interactive activities are now available for ages 11-17 through The B.L.O.C.K. Youth and Teen Center virtual afterschool program called The B.L.O.C.K. and Beyond.

Participants can choose from a number of classes including: art lessons, cooking classes, science experiments, tutoring, social hours, and others. Parents can purchase a membership that provides unlimited access to session classes or just pay a drop-in fee. The next session is scheduled for Jan. 4 through March 31. Visit www.cantonfun.org/146 for program schedules and times.

"The BLOCK and Beyond offers a unique opportunity for participants to take part in these creative online classes," stated Laura Mortier, The B.L.O.C.K. Youth and Teen Center supervisor. "All of these classes are held via Zoom give students a chance to challenge themselves and lift their spirits."

These extracurricular group sessions take place once a week for one-hour over a 10-week session. Students will be able to learn new skills, socialize with peers, and create bonds in this fun and nurturing online environment, officials said.

Parents are encouraged to ignite their children's creativity and register online for The B.L.O.C.K. and Beyond at www.cantonfun.org/register for these classes designed specifically for teens. Drop-in sessions are also available.

The B.L.O.C.K. Youth and Teen Center, located on the third floor of the Canton Administration Building at 1150 S. Canton Center Road in Canton, provides a teen-friendly environment where students from ages 11-17 can participate in supervised afterschool programs, social events, and activities. For more information about The B.L.O.C.K. and Beyond virtual classes and The B.L.O.C.K. Youth and Teen Center, visit www.cantonfun.org/146 or call (734) 398-5570.

Making holidays happier

Westland Mayor William R. Wild welcomed the generous donation of more than 100 turkeys from the American House Westland. Bob Gillette, American House owner and Barbra Barrel, senior vice president of operations, contacted Brig. General Carol Ann Fausone (USAF Retired) and husband James Fausone, Westland city attorney, looking for a way in which they could support veterans and underserved residents in Westland. Wild dispatched the city Community Police Officers to coordinate timely delivery of donated turkeys to families in the historic Norwayne district. "This donation is greatly appreciated during these trying times. Providing much needed assistance to those struggling during these challenging times will surely brighten many families' holidays," Wild said.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Charter Township of Canton will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting/hearing upon notice to the Charter Township of Canton.

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), the Charter Township of Canton will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs, or activities.

Employment: The Charter Township of Canton does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices and complies with all regulations promulgated by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under Title II of the ADA.

Effective Communication: The Charter Township of Canton will generally, upon request, provide appropriate aids and services leading to effective communication for qualified persons with disabilities so they can participate equally in the Charter Township of Canton's programs, services, and activities, including qualified sign language interpreters, documents in Braille, and other ways of making information and communications accessible to people who have speech, hearing, or vision impairments.

Modifications to Policies and Procedures: The Charter Township of Canton will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. For example, individuals with service animals are welcomed in the Charter Township of Canton's offices, even where pets are generally prohibited.

Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton should contact the office of Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Coordinator, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260 as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

The ADA does not require the Charter Township of Canton to take any action that would fundamentally alter the nature of its programs or services, or impose an undue financial or administrative burden.

Complaints that a program, service, or activity of the Charter Township of Canton is not accessible to persons with disabilities should be directed to Barb Brouillette, Human Resources Coordinator, Charter Township of Canton, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, MI 48188, (734) 394-5260.

The Charter Township of Canton will not place a surcharge on a particular individual with a disability or any group of individuals with disabilities to cover the cost of providing auxiliary aids/services or reasonable modifications of policy, such as retrieving items from locations that are open to the public but are not accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

Publish: 0107/21

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AGENDA
January 14, 2021

Notice is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals **THURSDAY, January 14, 2021 at 7:00 PM.** The meeting will be held by electronic remote access. Individuals may join the video teleconference by going to:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89184868953

Or iPhone one-tap: 1-312-626-6799 (89184868953#) or 1-301-715-8592 (89184868953#)

Or Telephone: 1-301-715-8592 or 1-312-626-6799

Webinar ID: 891 8486 8953

International numbers available: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kb3wOH5EFT

7:00 P.M.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Jim Cisek, Vicki Welty, Craig Engel, Greg Greco, John Badeen.
Alternate: Gregory Demopoulos

Approval of Minutes:
December 21, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Approval of Agenda

General Calendar:

1. Applicant, Danny Veri, for property located on the east side of Lilley Road between Warren Rd. and Joy Rd., Zoning R-6. Property address is 7720 Lilley Road N. Appealing Section 6.03(A)(6) of the Zoning Ordinance. The requested variance is to allow a 10-foot separation distance between the north building wall and the access drive - a variance of 15 feet from the minimum 25-foot separation distance. Parcel ID 71-008-99-0001-707 (Planning).

Written comments need to be submitted prior to 4:00 PM on the date of the hearing. All written comments must be sent to the Charter Township of Canton. Clerk's Office, 1150 S. Canton Center Rd., Canton, MI 48188, Phone 734-394-5120.

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
ACCESS TO PUBLIC MEETINGS
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with disabilities who require special accommodations, auxiliary aids or services to attend participate at the meeting/hearing should contact Kerreen Conley, Human Resources Manager, at 734-394-5260.
Reasonable accommodations can be made with advance notice.
A complete copy of the Access to Public Meetings Policy is available at www.canton-mi.org

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PLYMOUTH - WAYNE

Liquor license suspended for COVID-19 violations

Plymouth ROC remained closed last week as plans to conform to required state heath department regulations continued at the Ann Arbor Road restaurant and bar.

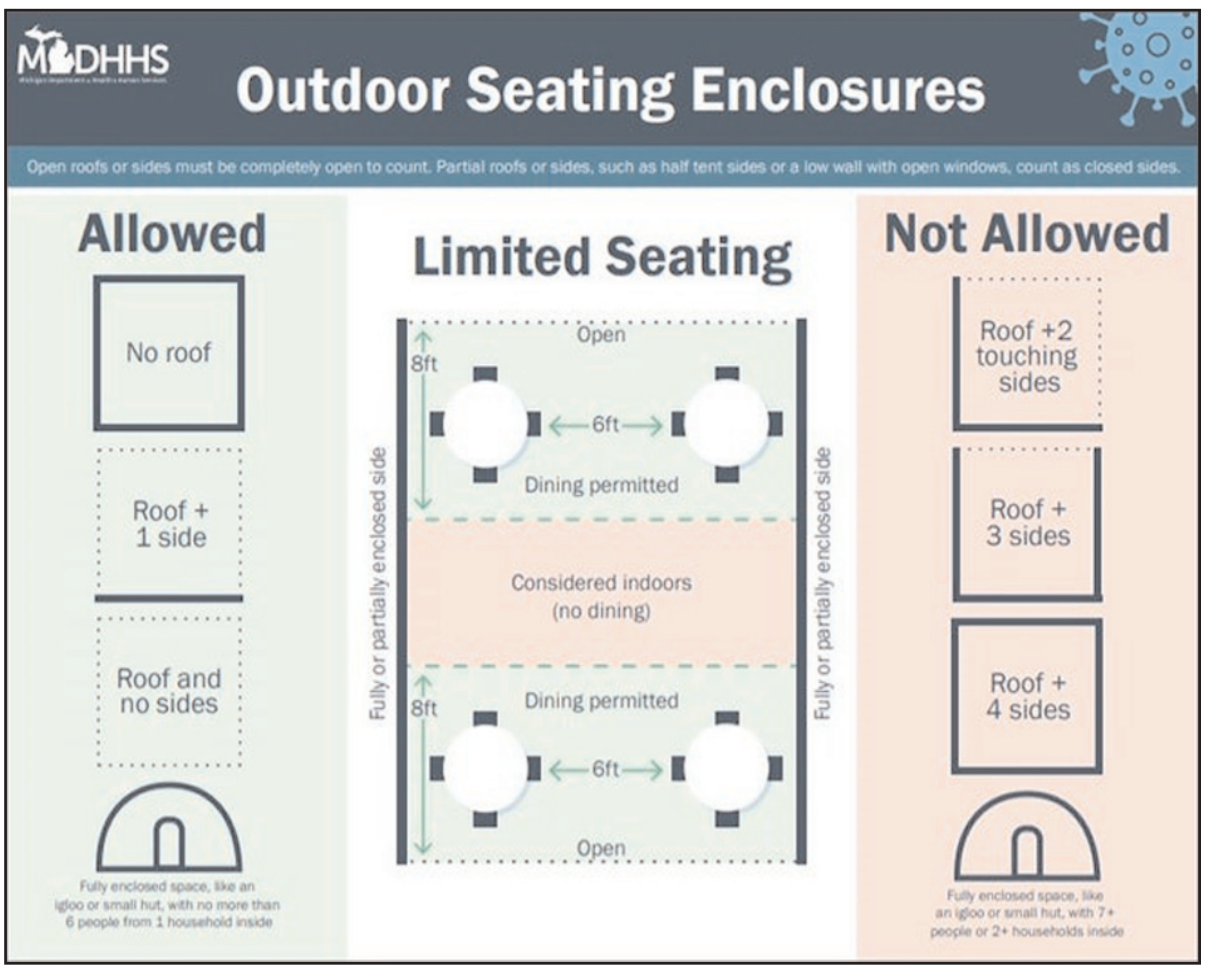
The Class C liquor license at the bar and restaurant was suspended Dec. 23 due to non-compliance with current state health department restrictions regarding indoor dining.

Following a hearing last Wednesday, Administrative Law Judge Michael St. John ruled the suspended liquor license at the vendor could be reinstated when the facility was fully compliant with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services restrictions on indoor dining.

Officials from three separate agencies inspected the tent which had been erected in front of the building in an effort to comply with outdoor dining requirements imposed as part of the state health department efforts to control the spread of COVID-19. All three agreed the makeshift tent violated the regulations as it was completely enclosed. State rules require that the outdoor tents for dining service must have three open sides if there is a roof. The airborne spread of the virus cannot be controlled in an enclosed space, according to medical experts who designed the new rules.

Officials recorded visits to the Plymouth ROC six times between Dec. 3 and Dec. 17 before taking action Dec. 23 to suspect the liquor license at the establishment. An inspector from the Wayne County Health Department ordered the removal of both the roof and one of the walls of the tent on Dec. 3, according to county officials. While the restaurant managers agreed to make the changes, the removal did not take place, state officials said.

The judge ordered the bar and restaurant closed until fully compliant with the state rules. He said the owners had only to notify the liquor control commission that the bar and restaurant was in compliance to begin the process of reinstatement. He told the owners that inspectors would review the site to ensure that it met the required standards which would then allow for the reinstatement of the suspended liquor license.


MDHHS
Outdoor Seating Enclosures
Open roofs or sides must be completely open to count. Partial roofs or sides, such as half tent sides or a low wall with open windows, count as closed sides.
Allowed
No roof
Roof + 1 side
Roof and no sides
Fully enclosed space, like an igloo or small hut, with no more than 6 people from 1 household inside
Limited Seating
Open
8ft
6ft
Dining permitted
Considered indoors (no dining)
Fully or partially enclosed side
Fully or partially enclosed side
8ft
Dining permitted
6ft
Open
Not Allowed
Roof +2 touching sides
Roof + 3 sides
Roof + 4 sides
Fully enclosed space, like an igloo or small hut, with 7+ people or 2+ households inside

To comply, the roof at the outdoor tent can remain, but no two walls can touch and tables must remain 6-feet from each other. The Downtown Development Authority in the city recently emailed a graphic to all business owners showing exactly what the specifications are.

Recycling bins now available

All single-family and multiple-family residences that utilize solid waste services in Plymouth Township should have a 65 gallon recycling cart.

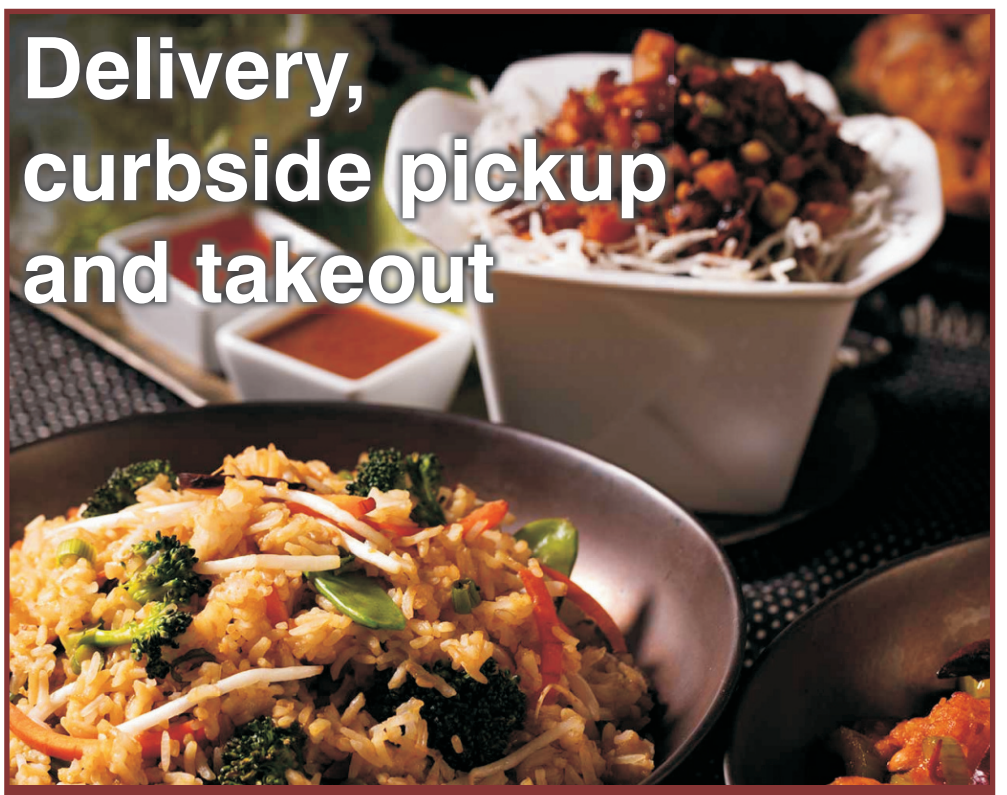
Any resident who does not have a cart should call the Solid Waste Department at (734) 414-1452, to enable them to participate in the year-round recycling program offered by the township.

To locate a list of acceptable items, access to www.plymouthtwp.org and search the word "recycling". All recycled items must fit inside the designated cart to be collected for recycling. Items placed outside the cart will not be collected by the automated recycling truck, officials said. It is important to break down all boxes so they fit loosely inside the recycling cart.

For disposal of any overflow of boxes, call the Solid Waste Department at the number above for an alternative means of recycling.

Special thanks

Members of the Wayne Police Department, along with service dog Zeke, expressed their gratitude recently for the new Motorola APX6000 portable radios purchased with a grant from Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation. The $11,523 grant funded the purchase of the new radios which allow officers to communicate with dispatch and each other while in the field. The department offered their thanks for the newly-arrived communication devices on the police Facebook page recently.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Inkster - Romulus - Sumpter

Development on track in city despite pandemic

Tony Antone has a lot of good things to say about the city of Romulus.

The developer, who works with the 50-year-old Kojaian Management Development Co., credits the ability of Romulus officials to work through the worst health crisis to strike the country and keep a major development on track and on schedule.

Vistar, a provider of cold storage food products, is expected to be operational in the city this spring in a new facility located on Smith Road just east of Vining Road in the city. Plans to build the 165,000 square foot facility in the city were under way just before the health threat of COVID-19 closed down many businesses in the state.

Antone said despite his trepidation regarding the pandemic, officials in Romulus surprised him. Rather than delay the project or approval studies, the city kept the project approvals on track and on time. He admitted that this was a different approach than other cities with whom the developer of industrial sites works. Kojaian was also the developer of the Amazon site in Romulus which opened prior to the pandemic. That distribution center, despite the negative impact of the virus on many other businesses, is thriving, officials said.

> *We weren't afraid of that size development but I really call it a game-changer-type development.*

Mayor LeRoy Burcroff was an enthusiastic supporter of the Amazon facility development, which prompted concerns from some others.

"We weren't afraid of that size development but I really call it a game-changer-type development. The benefit to the community also for the residents, we call it the citizens' benefit, is that they've got a click away from the services to their door," Burcroff said in a recent published interview regarding the Amazon facility.

Antone was not hesitant to express his gratitude and appreciation for the ability of Romulus to move the new Vistar project forward, and move it quickly through the necessary studies and permit phases.

"Had the city not acted that quickly, we would've lost the deal. The deal would've died because these people had to be done by spring of '21. And if we couldn't get the approvals and start construction, we weren't going to get it done and it would've just been mothballed," Antone said.

"In a COVID pandemic, being able to still have meetings and discussion, having building inspectors available to go out and inspect - that's what some communities are lacking right now. They get projects in-house, they get stalled either because of lack of resources of labor contractors or the local municipality doesn't have the ability to get out and do inspections right away," Burcroff said.

That is obviously not the case in Romulus. The Vistar project will be done by May or June this year, according to Antone.

Sumpter trustees revise deputy supervisor position

Members of the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees approved several employment positions and salaries while revising another during a recent Zoom meeting Dec. 15.

Many of the employment specifics were not without controversy or opposition by one or more members of the board.

Ken Bednark, the previous township treasurer, was named as deputy supervisor, a position limited by the board members to less than 20-hours per week at an annual salary of $8,406, without benefits. Bednark, while treasurer, missed more than a year of meetings while continuing to collect his $19,000 annual salary.

Supervisor Tim Bowman and Trustee Peggy Morgan both cast no votes on the motion to alter the position to part time, as Bowman had already named Bednark to the job and the former treasurer had been sworn in as deputy supervisor.

Morgan called the change from a full-time deputy supervisor to the 20-hour limit "ridiculous." She claimed the action was "about the person and not the position." Trustee Don LaPorte disputed Morgan's accusation that the action was personal and said he had never been in support of a full-time deputy supervisor. He also noted that the pay rate was commensurate with the amount paid to elected trustees.

> *Many of the employment specifics were not without controversy or opposition by one or more members of the board.*

Morgan continued to argue that the revisions to the position were based on Bednark's previous interaction with the board and insisted that the former deputy supervisor, Karen Armatis, was paid $32 per hour.

Bowman read a statement claiming that because he is new to the position he needs a full-time deputy who receives full-pay with benefits.

Morgan insisted that Bowman was being "short changed" and proposed that Bednark as deputy supervisor, should be paid at the same rate as newly-appointed deputy treasurer Toni Clark, who was named to the job by her husband, James Clark. Later in the meeting, Clark's position was approved as full-time or 40 hours per week at a rate of $25.08 per hour, along with full benefits. She is also eligible for overtime as approved by the her husband. Morgan cast the lone no vote on Clark's job description and pay rate.

Bowman and Morgan also cast no votes on the full-time deputy clerk position at 40 hours at $25.08 hourly with overtime as approved by the clerk, and full benefits but without medical reimbursement. The board members then approved another motion for a pay increase for deputy clerk Antony Burdick from the approved $25.08 to $27.08 to correct scheduled pay increases that had been missed since his appointment to the job in 2018.

Bowman and Morgan again cast the only two dissenting votes.

Suspect charged in shooting during attempted break-in

Dajon Donte Lewis, 18, of Sumpter Township has been arraigned on multiple charges in connection with a home invasion Dec. 14.

According to police accounts, the charges result from the home invasion which took place on Edgewood Drive in the Rawsonville Woods Mobile Home Community. Police said that during the break-in, the defendant produced a handgun and during an ensuing struggle, the 22-year-old resident of the home was shot through the leg.

Police said the incident was not random and that the victim and the alleged perpetrator are acquainted.

The assailant fled the scene and Lewis was later located and taken into custody in the Ypsilanti area by members of the Michigan State Police Fugitive Team, according to police reports.

Lewis was arraigned Dec. 25 in 34th District Court on one count of assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder, assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) and two counts of felony firearm.

At last report, Lewis remained incarcerated. A court hearing on the charges was set for yesterday.

3 suspects are at large after gunfight

Three suspects remain at large following an exchange of gunfire and a chase by police from several departments recently.

According to Michigan State Police officials, troopers were asked by the Inkster Police Department to assist with a breaking and entering incident with shots fired at a local apartment complex.

When officers arrived at the scene at about 5:30 p.m. Dec. 27, Inkster officers had confronted three people fleeing from the apartment complex on Hamlin Drive and gunfire had been exchanged. Police recovered a handgun at the scene, according to reports.

No injuries were reported.

One of the suspects got into a purple Dodge Challenger and, while attempting to flee the scene, struck two patrol cars, troopers said. Police shot at the suspects as they drove away, according to authorities.

The suspects were pursued by officers from several departments including until police lost sight of the vehicle in Detroit, police said. The abandoned vehicle was discovered around 6:35 p.m. Sunday near Seven Mile and Stout in Detroit, police said.

State legislator joins 'Silent Cry' prison demonstration

State Rep. Jewell Jones (D-Inkster) joined with Silent Cry to host a demonstration at the Gus Harrison Correctional Facility in Adrian earlier this month to advocate for measures that would provide adequate medical care and protect incarcerated individuals from COVID-19. He was joined by fellow state Reps. LaTanya Garrett (D-Highland Park), Sherry Gay-Dagnogo (D-Detroit), and Tenisha Yancey (D-Harper Woods).

"The people behind bars in this state belong to families that we represent," said Jones. "Sure, some made mistakes and others find themselves incarcerated wrongfully, but they are people too. They are us. We must do much better in the areas of care and consideration as it relates to our overcrowded populations - people are dying."

The COVID-19 crisis has disproportionately impacted prison populations. As of late November, 11,914 Michigan prisoners and 1,625 staff had contracted the virus, with those numbers continuing to rise. Seventy-seven people in prison and three employees had died. At the demonstration, Silent Cry delivered a list of demands to the correctional facility to protect the health and safety of the incarcerated community.

"The COVID crisis has highlighted the importance of quality health care more than ever, but the state continues to provide inadequate care and protective measures to incarcerated individuals," said Shawanna Vaughn, founder of Silent Cry. "A society is judged by how it treats its most vulnerable, and the men and women in prison are completely at the mercy of the system to protect their health and well-being. We must do better."

AGGRESSIVE LITIGATION

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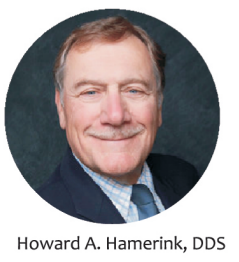
Howard A. Hamerink, DDS

159 South Harvey
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NORTHVILLE

Township honors local citizen, police 'heroes'

Northville Township police officials recently recognized police officers and civilian employees with the 2020 departmental awards.

Lifesaving awards, which are presented to city employees actively responsible for the saving of human life, were presented to: Sgt. Dan Jones, Sgt. Josh Pike, Ofc. James Beamish, Ofc, Tony Dang (twice), Ofc. Adam Micek, Ofc. Andy Domzalski, Ofc. Zack Lewis, Ofc. Justin Norlock, Ofc. Shaun Urbano, Ofc. Justin Clenney, PSO Mike Galunas (three times), PSO Carrie Hollingshed, and PSO Connie Burrnett.

Unit Commendations, which are awarded in recognition of outstanding police services by any departmental unit, were presented to:Sgt. Pat Reinke, Ofc. Chris Bachand, Ofc. Zach Conrad, Ofc. Andy Domzalski and Ofc.Tim Tanzillo

The Valued Service Award, presented to an individual who demonstrates a consistent commitment to the organization displayed through the high quality of work performed in job assignments and daily duties and functions and surpassed the required department standards, went to Ofc. Kristen Romac.

The Leadership Award, is presented to any department member who, while acting in a leadership role demonstrates significant leadership during the course of a specific event or over an extended period of time while in a position of responsibility or authority. The award this year went to Sgt. Doug Scoggins.

> *Police Officer of the Year which is a significant department honor went to Ofc. Chris Bachand.*

The Directors Award is presented to a member of the police department for any reason deemed worthy of recognition by the Director of Public Safety, who establishes the criteria for the award. This year, Police Chief Paul Tennies was honored with the distinction.

Civilian of the Year honors went to PSO Carrie Hollingshed. Her selection was based upon her "significant contribution to the mission of the Northville Township Police Department." Candidates must be recommended, in writing, to the Awards Committee by any member of the police department. Recommendations for this award are the result of continuous quality performance throughout the year, officiasl said.

Police Officer of the Year which is a significant department honor went to Ofc. Chris Bachand. His selection was based upon his contributions to the mission of the Northville Township Police Department. To be considered for the award, candidates must be recommended, in writing, to the Awards Committee by any department member. Recommendations for this award are the result of continuous quality performance throughout the year.

City seeking public input into development plans

Members of the Northville Planning Commission have invited all residents to participate in a comprehensive survey for the Master Plan update of the Cady Street, racetrack and S. Center Street. subareas. This second survey is designed to consolidate public input for a shared vision for redevelopment with benefits for the entire community, officials said. The subarea update to the Master Plan will allow city officials to communicate a desired vision to developers for this part of town, they added.

Survey responses will help members of the planning commission solidify concepts prior to drafting the language for the Master Plan subareas. The link to the survey is open until Jan. 31. Those who cannot complete the survey online can contact the city manager's office for a paper copy.

This survey is more detailed than the first one with sections for open-ended comments, choices for streets and walkways, preferred visions for land use (as depicted in game boards from the open houses), as well as standard ranges of how strongly residents agree or disagree with a statement.

The survey explores each of the subareas with questions about many topics, including building height, density, walkability, and parks - not just green space but also the concept of integrating retail and event vendors along a common public area, such as a riverwalk. It also addresses limitations, such as the flood plain around Northville Downs, and the fact that development must be profitable for the developer/builder, a spokesman said.

> *We looked at the results of the first survey and the open houses and developed questions that dig more deeply into those concepts.*

Public Input Subcommittee Member Donna Tinberg said the survey was drafted by the subcommittee and Carlisle Wortman Associates. It was further refined with suggestions by the planning commissioners and public comment at the December meeting of the commission.

"We looked at the results of the first survey and the open houses and developed questions that dig more deeply into those concepts," Tinberg said.

She noted that this is the last formal opportunity for residents and others vested in the future of Northville to provide input before the Master Plan revision of these three subareas is drafted. Public comment is always welcome at Planning Commission meetings. As such, it asks questions about difficult choices often encountered when planning for future growth, she said.

"This survey is longer and more complex than the first survey, and in that way it will provide additional data points to give us a sense of how people who respond to the survey might prioritize the hard choices that will have to be made when developers build on these properties," Tinberg added.

When the survey closes on Jan. 31, Carlisle Wortman Associates representatives will consolidate the responses, find themes within the open-ended questions, and present the results to the subcommittee and planning commission. They, in turn, will also see all of the responses and may draw similar or different conclusions.

Initial data is expected to be released about four to six weeks after the survey closes.

While COVID-19 has slowed the process of revising the subareas in the Master Plan, it has prompted greater attendance at Zoom meetings than in-person meetings - most likely because of the convenience of not having to leave home to attend, Tinberg noted.

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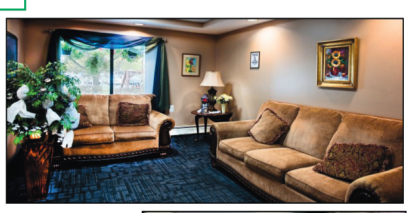

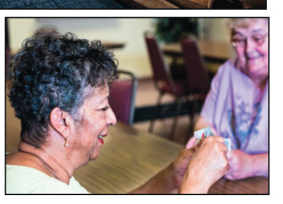

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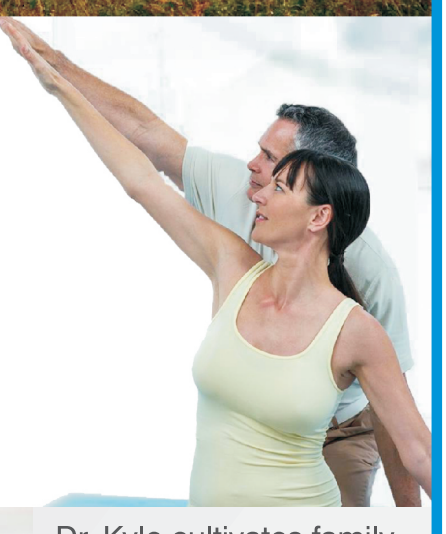

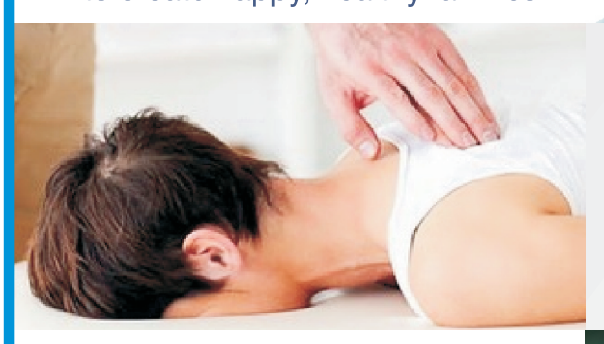

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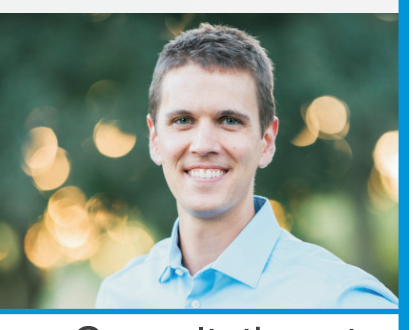

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Air borne

Renovations to historic World War II plane nearly completed

A bit of history has been revisited at the Yankee Air Museum in Belleville.

The treasured B-25 is fully repainted to the original colors it wore when it emerged from a North American Aviation assembly plant in Kansas City 77 years ago. The plane now reflects the role the aircraft played in American in history as a combat veteran flying out of Corsica in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations. The repaint project, courtesy of Kalitta Air, begun in December is now complete, museum officials said.

"It looks fantastic," said Kevin Walsh, president and CEO of Yankee Air Museum. "I am very anxious to see it outdoors, in natural light. The Kalitta Air team has delivered a remarkable, authentic paint job."

Walsh looked back to Monday, Dec. 28 when the Yankee Air Museum's B-25 maintenance crew had been working on mechanical components of the plane throughout the day. They reinstalled ailerons and other panels on the plane. These parts were removed and painted separately during the project. The elevators, which control the planes ascent and descent will be weighed and balanced at the Willow Run air base before being reinstalled.

'Just like in World War II, the last official paint to go on the plane, are the '9C' squadron identification markings on the tail, said Walsh. "These were applied, and the paint job is complete."

Walsh said that over the next couple of weeks museum mechanics will return with the balanced elevators, reinstall them and complete a series of mechanical inspections. He said the plane will need to have engine runs and a test flight before it ferries home, to Willow Run.

The new paint job on the Yankee Air Museum B-25 aircraft was recently completed at the Kalitta Air Hangar in Oscoda, above, while below, officials and volunteers watch as the work progesses.

"Our B-25 did not have any nose art, or a name when it was in the war," said Walsh. "We will name it and get an artist to paint period correct nose art later this year."

Walsh said the B-25 will honor history, and fly to air shows this summer to educate people about the gallantry of the Greatest Generation.

"Yankee Air Museum salutes Conrad "Connie" Kalitta with great appreciation and thanks everyone at Kalitta Air for making this project possible," concluded Walsh.

Volunteers are thanked

The B-25 repainting project could not have been accomplished without a crew of volunteers who travelled to Oscoda, spent a few overnights, and took time away from their families this holiday season, said Kevin Walsh, president and CEO of Yankee Air Museum.

"Like many non-profit organizations, Yankee Air Museum could not fulfill its mission without the time, skills and labor donated to it by volunteers. With heartfelt appreciation, these B-25 project members are recognized: Paul Hakala, chief of maintenance; Angel Estrada, B-25 crew chief; and volunteers: Grant Schwartz, Darrel Bazman, Brian Gawronski, Rich Koski, Nick Consiglio, Tim Wedig, Eric Esckelson, Luke Noble, Bob Bailey, Joe Provost, Gene Wedekemper, Justin Walsh and Patrick Trevas. The B-25 pilots for this mission, flying without heat in the cockpit, were Mike Vetter and Delane Buttacavoli," he added.

Lightfest

FROM PAGE 1

said, which may have accounted for some of the problems. Historically the event averaged around 1,800 cars on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. This year the event averaged around 3,800 vehicles each night it was open.

As a result, officials said, there has been a great deal of traffic backing up onto Merriman Road and there have been backups as far south as Ford Road and as far north as Plymouth Road affecting Westland, Garden City and Livonia. The backups are not a result of traffic getting into the park, but the volume of cars actually inside the event, officials said. The traffic flow inside the event is constant and slow moving.

Previously, the Lightfest route took visitors down Merriman to Hawthorn Drive, then to Hawthorn Park Drive, then onto eastbound Hines Drive. In an effort to alleviate the traffic problems, the route was altered to send traffic onto Hines Drive. The route will first travel west on Hines to Nankin Mills. Vehicles will then loop around back onto eastbound Hines. This will allow approximately 1 mile of traffic inside the park rather than on Merriman Road.

Officials said last week that the changes had shown "a great improvement."

Another neighbor who lives on Ann Arbor Trail said that cars were parked in the center lane waiting to enter the exhibit which prevented residents from turning into or out of subdivisions or driveways. Nearby resident Alyson Tusek called the situation earlier this month a "nightmare."

More than 20 other nearby residents posted complaints and accounts of the traffic tie ups on social media.

Wayne County officials did not issue any plan for route changes or comment on the situation by press time this week.

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